

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*Phase I and Phase II investigations
answered some questions about the site's history
and raised several more.*

Because a prehistoric resource was identified in the Phase I survey, a Phase II investigation in the woods certainly was warranted in order to assess the eligibility of the identified prehistoric resources.

Based upon the initial testing, it is apparent that the site meets the criteria for significance established for Delaware sites (Heite and Blume 1995:24). Part, at least, of the site has never been plowed; stratified deposits were detected. If these conditions should prove to be widely distributed in the project area, the site certainly would be eligible for the National Register.

It was clear that everything west of the fence line is potentially part of the prehistoric site. A systematic test program, of 15 to 25 meter-square tests, was proposed, for the purpose of describing the various activity areas in the site. Since the site certainly extends beyond the project impact, its ultimate boundaries are not material to the present project.

The project's research objectives were met, and the field strategy proved to be adequate to the job. Since the site clearly is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, data recovery is one of the mitigation options that should be considered to compensate for the project impact.

Any road that might be built between the two endpoints will pass

through some part of the Beech Ridge site, which means that avoidance may not be a possibility.

FUTURE SOIL CHEMISTRY

Foss was able to derive considerable information from the physical and chemical analysis of the site. The chemical survey (figures 57 to 60) demonstrated that the site contains considerable variation in the chemical content of its soils. However, the sampling interval was not close enough to produce the fine-grain results that would be useful for identifying prehistoric activity areas and even surface indications of individual features.

Foss suggests two more courses of inquiry into the soils of the site:

1. Sample a complete soil profile(s) on site to determine the distribution of chemical elements from the surface into the relatively unweathered parent material (or C horizon). The samples should be taken by horizon, but at least one sample every 25 centimeters in depth. By knowing the natural distribution of elements (e.g. barium, calcium, magnesium, and manganese), one can more accurately determine the impact of human activity on the distribution of elements in the soil. Pit features or other observable disturbed areas should be avoided in selecting the location for background sampling.

the present study. Dr. Foss should be invited to visit the site two or more times for consultation while the holes are open. Some units, demonstrably outside features, should be sampled for soil chemistry and structure, as suggested by Foss.

INCLUDING NATIVE AMERICANS

The outreach to the Lenape Indian community, both in Kent County, Delaware, and elsewhere should continue. Consultation with the federally recognized Delaware Nation and Delaware Tribe of Indians, centered in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and Bartlesville, Oklahoma, respectively, is required under Section 106, but respect for Lenape descendants still living in the area requires that they also be included in discussions about the treatment of the archaeological remains of their past. The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey should be included in these discussions because some of their members reside in Delaware, and other members were originally part of the Delaware Lenape community or are descended from members of that community. Measures that should be taken to ensure the involvement of Lenape descendants include the following:

1. Provide for several weekend excavation days to allow community members to participate or to tour the excavations.
2. Provide brief updates on the excavations that can be included in tribal newsletters.
3. Present the results of the excavations at the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware Archaeology Month program.
4. Public outreach publications or presentations should provide a picture of life at the site in the past that is people-centered, not artifact centered.

GRAVEYARD PROBABILITIES

Although the surface evidence suggested the presence of a cemetery under the volleyball court, the feature turned out to be a drainfield. No other potential archaeological sites are likely to be encountered in the apartment grounds.

As for the curiously set-aside quarter-acre on the back of the Learned property, if it was a graveyard or intended to be a graveyard, the burials are to be expected on the uphill side, not in the area slated for the roadway.

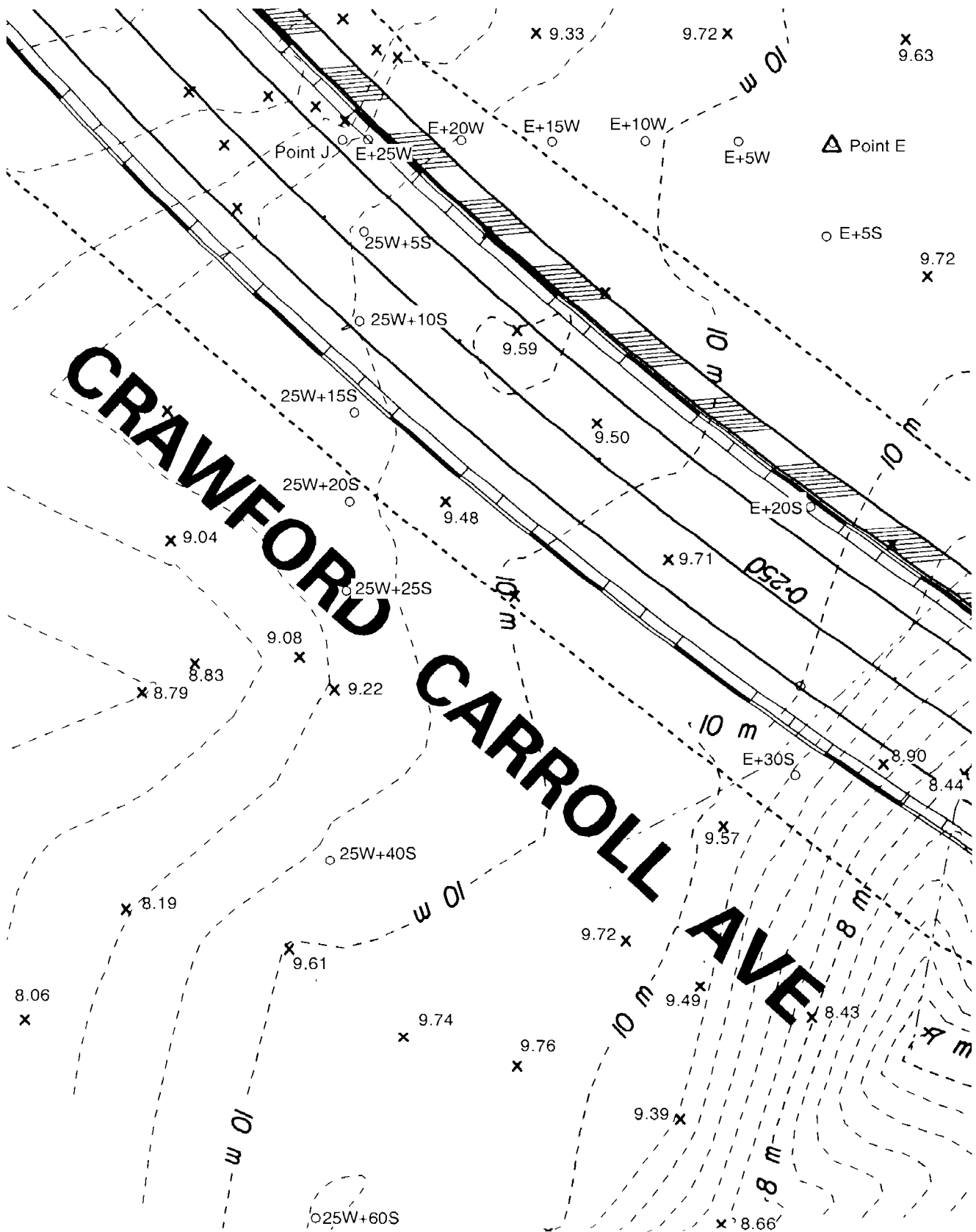


Figure 68: This topographic map is based upon detailed surveys taken during the archaeological work, and therefore is more sensitive to topographical nuances than a standard engineering survey. The ravine at right leads down to White Marsh Branch. North is at the top, and the grid interval is ten meters.